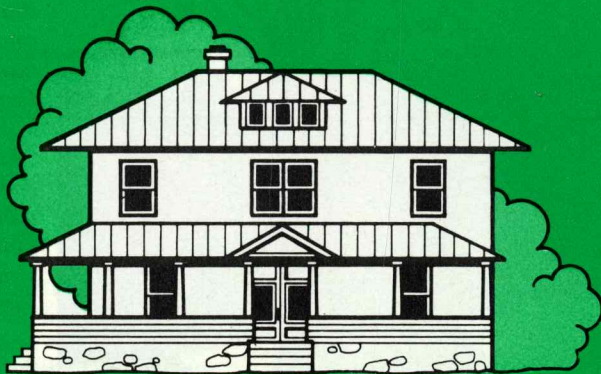
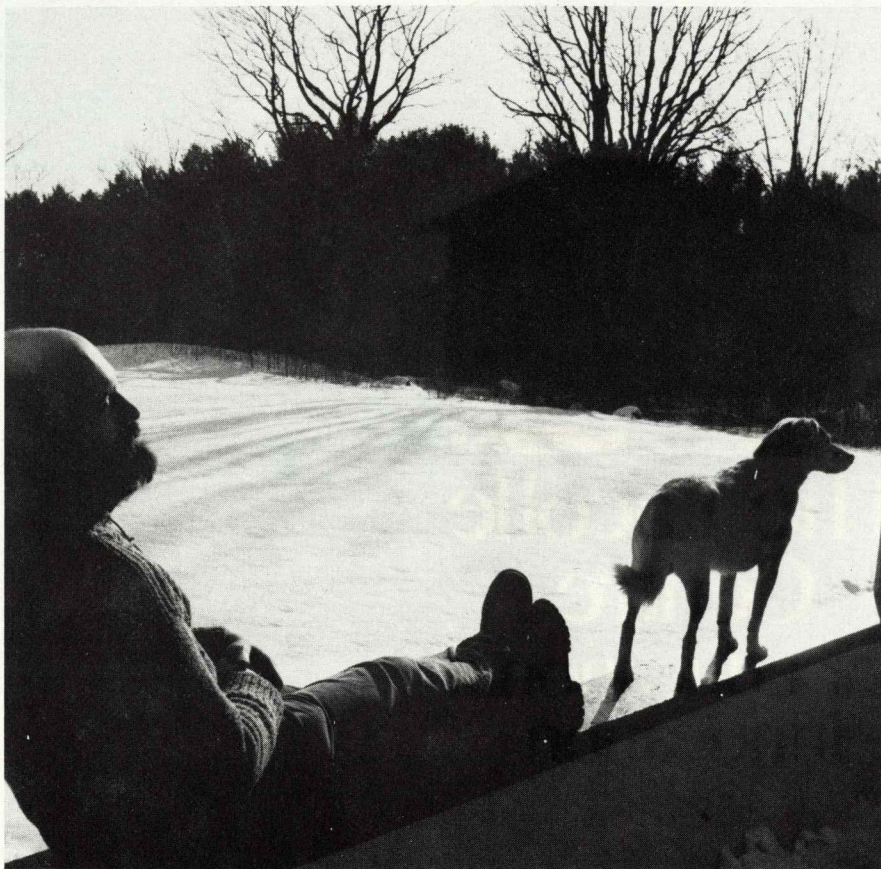


C O N C O R D I A



The Lacolle
Centre
for educational
innovation

U N I V E R S I T Y



"Only dialogue which requires critical thinking is also capable of generating critical thinking. Without dialogue there is no communication, and without communication there can be no true education."

Paulo Freire

"Authentic humanism consists in permitting the emergence of the awareness of our full humanity, as a condition and as an obligation, as a situation and as a project."

Pierre Furter

Cover by Carmen Jensen
Back photo by Andrew Gryn

Statement of Purposes and Goals

The Lacolle Centre for Educational Innovation is an off-campus residential facility located seventy kilometres south of Montreal near Lacolle, Quebec.

It was developed by Loyola College in 1971, with the stated purpose of extending the university experience by replacing some of the usual restrictions of a classroom with an informal, shared community.

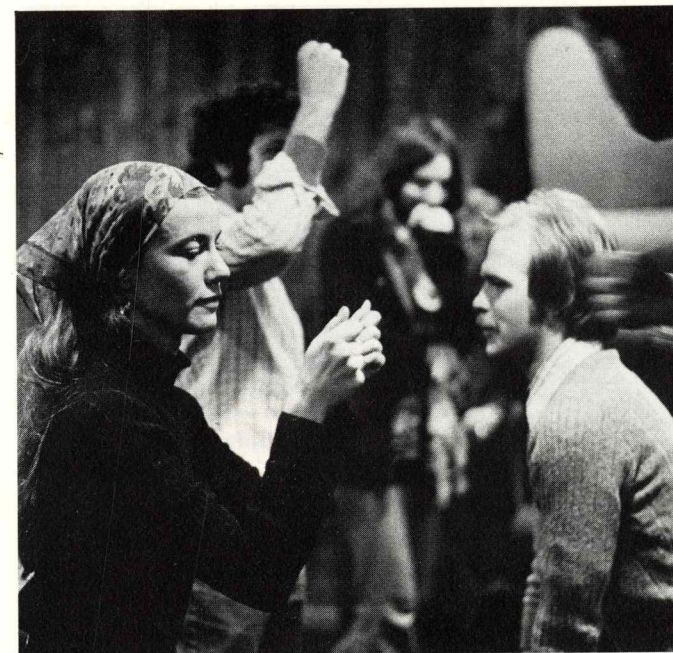
This environment is designed to promote the development and understanding of relationships among people as well as provide an opportunity to explore new and creative approaches to learning. The primary goal of the Centre is to ensure that its users, will, by working collaboratively at Lacolle, discover ways to enhance their educational pursuits on the university campus.

The Centre has four specific objectives.

Education: To be used as a resource for developing and testing innovations in higher education which may enrich the quality of teaching and learning on the university campus.

Individual: To provide an environment in which individuals can define and develop their personal resources in order to enhance their learning.

Group: To emphasize the importance of the human relations component of learning and to encourage its development through interaction in an informal setting.



Community and Organization: To encourage the development of larger community through liaison with existing University departments, colleges, as well as outside groups. The purpose of this would be to utilize the rich resources the University has within its walls and apply them to areas of specific interest to Concordia and the Montreal community.



The Facility

The hundred and fifty year old yellow farmhouse, once called the 'Manor House of Lacolle', is an imposing wooden structure with a field stone wing, occupying twenty acres of lawn and natural woodlot about ten kilometres southwest of Lacolle Village.

It accommodates twenty-four people comfortably overnight in four bedrooms furnished with bunkbeds, dressers and closets. There are also two small group meeting rooms (for approximately fifteen) on the first floor (each of which may be used as a separate sleeping space), and an upstairs lounge.

The "Stone Room" which was designed as a large group meeting area (for approximately forty) is carpeted and furnished with comfortable chairs, a blackboard, large work tables and a fireplace.

The kitchen and adjoining dining room are fully equipped. There are three bathrooms with showers.

There is no linen service, therefore users are asked to bring sleeping bags or blankets, their own bathtowels and facecloths and kitchen dishtowels.

A map with directions, guidelines and house keys are provided prior to a group's departure for Lacolle.

Past and Potential Programmes

The Lacolle Centre has been conceived as a resource for individuals and groups in the University community.

Each programme is designed by the user group on its own, or with the help of the Lacolle staff, to meet the unique needs of the individuals involved. There are, however, several general areas into which some of the past programmes fall:

Professor and student initiated programmes:

A classroom group spends a weekend or several weekdays at Lacolle in a relaxed atmosphere which extends the time and space of the classroom setting. This type of programme might involve a deeper exploration into previously introduced course material; an opportunity to apply teaching methodologies (i.e. role play, drama, games, simulations, etc.) which may not be as well-suited to the classroom environment; or simply an unstructured period of time in which both instructors and students are able to establish a comfortable working relationship which may then carry over into their classroom experience.

The Centre has been used successfully in this way by almost every University department, including English, Commerce, Library Studies Communication Studies, French, Theatre Arts and Biology.

Residential Courses:

These are regular credit courses which are taught in a concentrated period of time at Lacolle rather than over an ex-

tended period at the university. Examples have included summer courses in biology (ecology) and astronomy.

Organizational Use:

Students, faculty and administrative groups as well as total departments use the Centre for program planning, evaluation, problem solving and team building.

Lacolle Initiated Programmes:

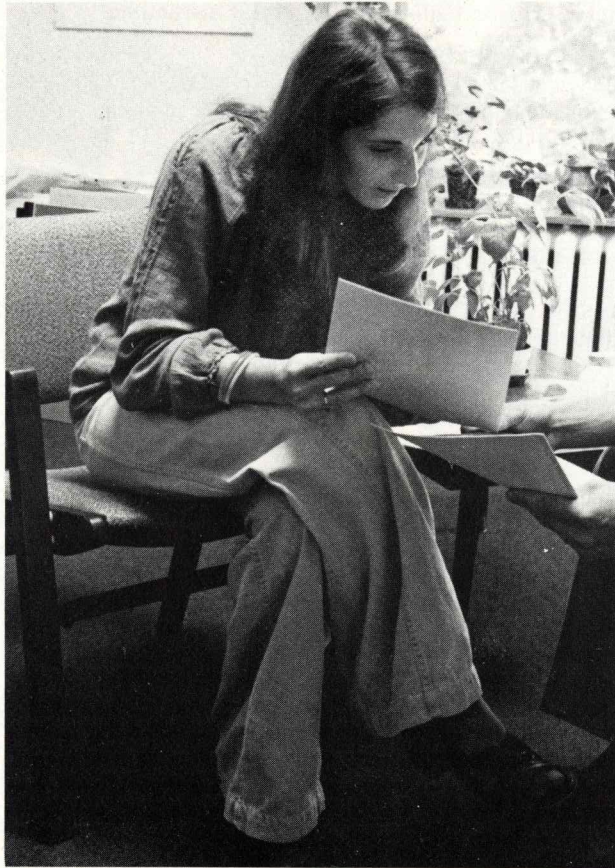
These are planned by the Lacolle staff and are advertised and open to all members of the university and surrounding Montreal community. In the past, they have included such events as:

- an annual harvest festival in October
- life and career planning weekends
- a seminar in 'self-directed learning'
- a program exploring 'alternative lifestyles'
- several week-long instructional improvement workshops for faculty members

In addition, Lacolle has sponsored or co-sponsored several successful on-campus events, including a week with Lois Philips examining feminism as humanism; guest appearances by such prominent authors as John Holt, Clark Moustakas, R.D. Laing; and a ten day seminar exploring creative approaches to dealing with death and loneliness.

Outside Groups:

Groups which are not affiliated with the university may rent the facility for a nominal fee. School boards, CEGEPs and community groups are encouraged to take advantage of the fact that the Lacolle Centre is readily available to weekdays. The Centre provides an ideal place for teachers to bring their classes, for unions and various departments to hold their meetings, and for community groups to discuss issues of concern to them.



Resources Available Through the Lacolle Centre

Members of the Lacolle staff and associates are available to accompany groups to the Centre and to provide skills in the areas of problem solving and decision making, group leadership, conflict management, goal setting and interpersonal or intergroup communication. In addition, the staff is available for consultation to groups or individuals on campus who would like assistance in any of these areas.

On-campus help in scheduling, designing and evaluating programmes to take place at the Centre.

Application Procedures, Costs & Commitments

Four times a year letters are posted on campus and sent to all departments and student associations inviting requests for use of the Centre. Applications should be submitted in writing to the Director, and indicate briefly:

- **name of the group** making the request
- **dates** for which the Centre is being requested, with several alternatives.
- **the purpose** for which the Centre will be used.
- **plans** which you may have for your activities at the Centre.

The Lacolle staff is available to help with planning, either with the total group, or with representative members.

After the closing date for requests, all programme organizers are individually invited to meet with the Lacolle Director to discuss programme objectives and organizational details. Feedback to the experience at the Lacolle Centre may be conveyed to the Director either through the evaluation forms or by telephone.

Decisions regarding allocation of the Centre are made according to the following priorities:

- 1st — academic use (Concordia)
- 2nd — organizational use (Concordia)
- 3rd — external groups

First time users in any category may be given preference. In addition, where requests for a particular time period are numerous, each proposal is examined with a view to how essential the use of the Lacolle Centre is to the programme. The Centre is usually able to confirm most requests, although not necessarily for the top priority time. There is a list of alternative locations, should the Centre not be able to accommodate any specific programme.

There is no charge to Concordia students, faculty or departments for the use of Lacolle Centre.

All groups outside of the university are charged one hundred dollars per day.

The sharing of responsibility for a Lacolle programme is considered to be an important part of establishing group cohesion and developing a sense of satisfaction with the experience. Therefore, all user groups are asked to:

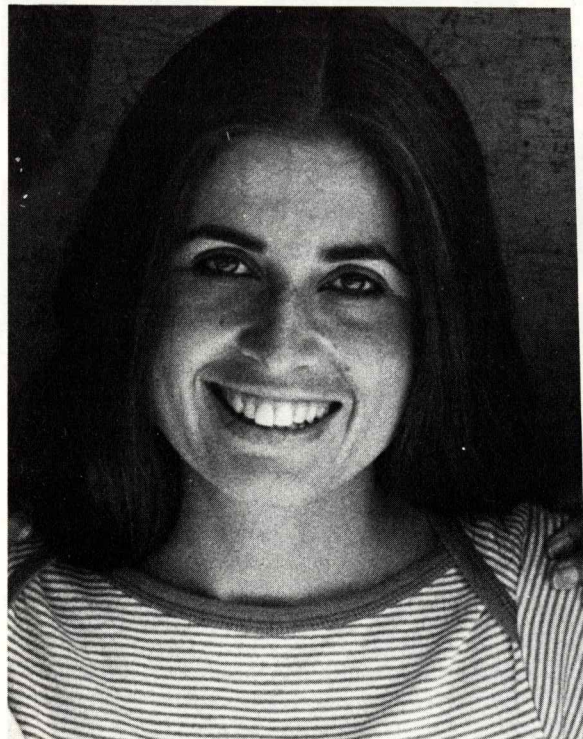
- **arrange for their own transportation** to and from the Centre.
- **plan and prepare their own meals.**
- **clean up.**



Lacolle has a part-time caretaker whose function it is to ensure that the house is in working order before each group arrives. However, it is each group's responsibility to do a general 'clean-up' at the end of its stay. (Please note that the Lacolle Centre reserves the right to refuse any group that has neglected to adequately clean up after itself in the past.)

Guidelines for clean-up procedures are posted at the Centre, as well as distributed to group members prior to their departure; and all housekeeping items, including industrial vacuum cleaners, are provided at the Centre.

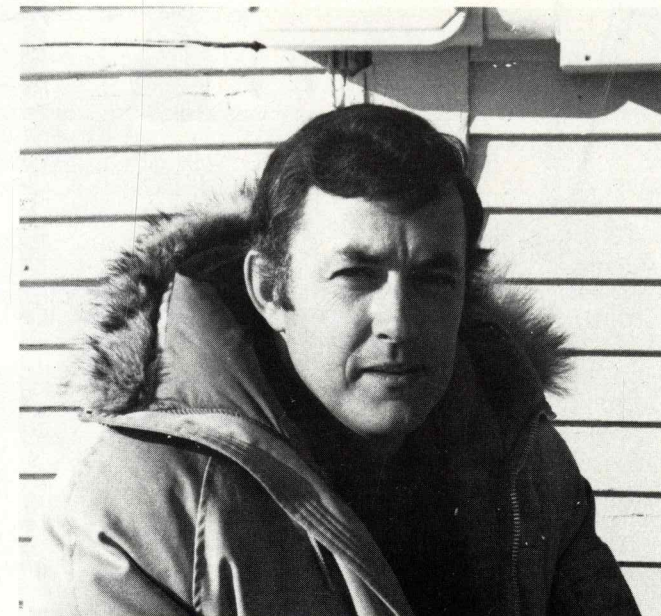
Lacolle Staff



Olivia Rovinescu is the Director of the Lacolle Centre. She is a graduate of McGill University (B.Ed. 1976 and M.A. Phil of Ed. 1982) and is presently pursuing doctoral studies at Concordia University. Ms. Rovinescu taught English at Academie Michele Provost and Humanities at John Abbott College. In addition, she is one of the founders of "Community Expressions", a Montreal-based organization that produces and publishes innovative educational material. She is one of the authors of "Expressions of Montreal's Youth" ('74), "Exploring the World of Work" ('75), and "Words on Work" ('81). She has also organized many workshops and seminars such as 'Developing Critical Consciousness', 'Photography as a Tool for Community and Personal Exploration', and 'Innovative Approaches to Inner-City Education', plus various arts and crafts workshops.



Lyn Lewis is the Secretary to the Lacolle Centre. She has held a number of secretarial positions in the University since starting in 1973. These include the Dean of Students Office and the Audio-Visual and Electrical Engineering Departments. Her sense of humour and willingness to "go that extra mile" have earned her recognition within the University community.



Walter Johnson is the part-time caretaker and the 'local resource person' for the Lacolle Centre. He is a graduate of McGill University and presently works as a freelance writer. He is author of the books "Working in Canada" and "Trade Unions & the State". Walter has been living near the Lacolle area for many years, and having built his own home, is a skilled carpenter and handyman, and brings to the job a knowledge of the surrounding communities and their resources.



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